US curbs on import of Indian Textiles

1707. SHRI J. K. JAIN:

SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned 'US Bill will curb textile imports' which appeared in 'The Times of India' on the 13th October, 1985;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) the nature of preparations being made for formulating the Indian position with reference to Multifibre Arrangements 1986 and details of the Indian position as reflected in negotiation with other Least Developed Countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a). Sir

(b) The Senate version of the Bill seeks to limit imports of textiles. The Bill would (i) cut back textile imports into USA from 3 leading suppliers—Taiwan, South Korea, and Hongkong by 30 per cent and (ii) place limits on textile imports from other major suppliers—China, Japan, India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Brazil and Singapore to 1984 levels with 1 per cent growth. The Bill, however, is yet to be approved by the U.S. President.

(c) India's stand has been formulated taking into account our competitiveness and the views of other developing countries. The position taken is that derogation from the normal rules of 'GATT' inherent in the discriminatory regime of the Multifibre Arrangement should be terminated.

Deaths due to gas leakage

1708. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ:

DR. H. P. SHARMA:

SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at least three persons were killed in two accidents of gas leakage, one in a Calico industries unit at Chambur, Bombay and the other in a Chemical factory at Rudel village, Kaira district, Gujarat, and several others including a Member of Parliament were seriously affected and hospitalised on August 30, 1985;

(b) if so, what are the results of inquiries made into the causes of the accidents; and

(c) what are the details of cases of gas leakages in various industrial units since January this year indicating the number of persons killed and injured in each case and the steps taken or being taken to enforce safeguards by Central Government to prevent such cases effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJAIAH): (a) and (b) According to the report received from the State Government of Maharashtra, as a result of leakage of chlorine gas from the storage tank of Ilac Ltd.-subsidiary of Calico Ltd, Chembur on 30th August, 1985, one person died and 139 were affected. It has been reported that chlorine gas leaked because of failure of a gasket. The State Government investigated the matter and necessary steps for neutralising the chlorine and providing medical aid to the affected were taken. The State Government have also prosecuted the Manager and the Occupier of the factory for offences under Factories Act, 1948 and Maharashtra Factory Rules, 1963. In all, fourteen cases have